

25. (Amended) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:  
a cathode comprising a cathode active material and carbon fibers;  
an anode;  
a separator; and  
an alkaline electrolyte,  
wherein the carbon fibers have a surface energy between about 50 mJ/m<sup>2</sup> and about 300 mJ/m<sup>2</sup>.
26. (Amended) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:  
a cathode comprising a cathode active material and carbon fibers;  
an anode;  
a separator; and  
an alkaline electrolyte,  
wherein the carbon fibers have a graphitic index of less than about 85%.

31. (Amended) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:  
a cathode comprising manganese dioxide and a heat-treated carbon fiber having a diameter less than about 250 nanometers;  
an anode;  
a separator; and  
an alkaline electrolyte.

(Please add the following new claims:

35. A primary alkaline battery, comprising:  
a cathode comprising a cathode active material and carbon fibers;  
an anode;  
a separator; and  
an alkaline electrolyte,  
wherein the cathode comprises greater than about 86% of the cathode active material by weight.
36. The battery of claim 35, wherein the cathode comprises manganese dioxide.